GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1049
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2003
EXPLOITATION OF POOR WORKERS
MINATI SEN

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 56th Report of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) has revealed that the actual gross value added per month per worker in unorganized sector is Rs.1,623.33 which translate into a gross value added of Rs.1,352.75 per month;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take any specific action against exploitation of poor workers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL)

(a): On the basis of survey on `Unorganised Manufacturing Sector in India` conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in its 56th Round during July 2000 - June 2001, the annual gross value added per worker comes to Rs.16233 which may translate into an estimated gross value added of Rs.1352.75 per month on an average.

(b) & (c): The economic exploitation of labour in the country is checked through enactment and enforcement of a number of labour laws aimed at protecting and promoting the health, safety, welfare and social security of workers. The Central Government has enacted a number of labour legislations to protect the workers from economic exploitation. These enactments are the Payment of the Wages Act, 1936, Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and Equal Remuneration Act, 1976. The provisions of these enactments ensure that the workmen are paid their wages at regular intervals and without unauthorised deductions. These laws also ensure that the workers employed in the scheduled employments and in the unorganised sector are paid the wages, which are not less than the minimum rates of wages fixed by the appropriate Governments. Further, the Equal Remuneration Act has been enacted to provide for payment of equal wages to female workers as paid to the male workers when employed to do same work or work of similar nature. These enactments also provide that the aggrieved workmen can file claim applications/complaints before the prescribed authority in order to get their dues paid/settled. These Acts also provide for penalties such as fines and imprisonments for violation/non-compliance of the provisions of the Acts.